

duress played for 1975

MIDWEST ELONGATED COLLECTORS



FOURTH

19 NEWSLETTER 74

QUARTER

The Chicago World's Fair



THE LAMA TEMPLE. This resplendent shrine, known as the Golden Pavilion of Jehol, is an exact reproduction of the original temple built for the Manchu emperors of China in 1767. It is filled with a treasure of statuary, carvings, jewels, bronzes and rich embroideries. The celebrated explorer, Dr. Sven Hedin, was sent to Orient by Vincent Bendix, Exposition trustee, to find and bring back a typical Lama Temple. His quest was ended when he found this brilliant relic of the Manchu dynasty. It was crumbling to ruin, but a staff of Chinese artist-craftsmen was set to work to duplicate each piece of the structure. No nails were used. More than 28,000 different parts were carved and numbered and shipped to Chicago.

As the scarlet and gold temple stands in the Exposition, it is 70 feet square and 60 feet high at the center. Its double-decked roof of copper shingles is covered with \$ 25,000 worth of 23-karat gold leaf. On the exterior, 28 columns in red lacquer support the gilded ceiling and the upper deck. Carved grilles in red, blue, yellow and gold, enclose the windows. The cornice beams are gilded and carved with images of dragons, cats and dogs.

Treasures of Taoism. The temple is arranged and equipped for the Lama worship. Its treasures include a huge bronze incense burner dating back to the Ming dynasty--1368 to 1644--a large antique wooden statue of the "smiling Buddha," bronze prayer wheels, the throne and screen of the Ta Lama, or high priest, and his ceremonial robes, the great bronze temple bell, prayer rugs, a drum made of two human skulls joined together, prayer tables with scrolls of the Lama scriptures and ceremonial weapons for banishing demons. Besides these ritual objects the temple contains a treasure of pagodas, carvings and offerings of jewels in jade and carved work. Many antique bronze religious statuettes of various periods are in the collection. Chinese interpreters explain the worship ceremony and the meanings of the details.



PAUL'S SPECIALTIES



A.A. ROSATO:

Merry Christmas 1967/ head of Santa/holly leaves/ dotted border.
Seasons Greetings/ two small houses with trees/ holly leaf border.
Merry Christmas 1969/ head of Santa/ with holly leaves around/ line border.
A Joyous Christmas 1970/ dove flying with leaves/ solid dotted border.
Christmas written through large 1971/ dotted border.
Merry Christmas/ 1972/ bell with wings/ dotted border.
Seasons Greeting/train station with train and sled outside/ 1972/ rope border.

DON SABO:

1969/ Seasons Greetings/ Don ____ Sabo/ holly leaves/line border.
Xmas/ three wise men presenting gifts/ line border/ 1970.
Noel 1970/ large head of Santa/ line border.
Noel 1971/ The Sabo's/ line border.

LLOYD E. WAGAMAN:

1968 Season's Greetings/ Lloyd & Alberta Wagaman/ horse drawn sled/ holly leaf border.
Merry Christmas/ Peace on Earth/ Lloyd & Alberta Wagaman/ 1969 / two flying doves/ line border.
1970/ Merry Christmas/ From/ Lloyd & Alberta Wagaman/ line border.
Lloyd & Alberta Wagaman/ Noel 1971/ lite candles/ line border.
Merry Christmas/ 1972/ Lloyd & Alberta Wagaman/ large holly leaves in center/ line border.
Christmas 1973/ Lloyd & Alberta Wagaman/ small church/ line border.
Merry Christmas/ From/ Sally & Al Kirka/ 1971/ TEC News Editors.

- THE END -

Many thanks Paul for listing the Christmas elongateds. I hope that your efforts will continue to make "OUR" hobby a "SUPER" one.

Paul also specializes in 'STORECARDS'. I know that if we dropped Paul a note we'd just might persuade him to feature this subject in the newsletters to come.

BETWEEN THE 1933 AND 1934
CHICAGO CENTURY OF PROGRESS

by David J. Singer

It was October and the end of the successful Chicago World's Fair of 1933 was at hand. My boss Bert Elmer said he was going to Miami, Florida for the winter.

I told Elmer that I had saved almost every penny I had earned - nearly \$ 300.00. My work was hard but enjoyable - 12 hours a day, seven days a week, and I was tired. Sunny Florida "where winter spends the summer" looked good to me.

THE MAN WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MOST ELONGATES IN DOW'S BOOK WAS A GAMBLER - HE HAD TO BE.

Bert was going to roll pennies on his machine. He did not promise me a job. He took out a pair of dice from his pocket, rolled it on the velvet cloth of the table where the roll-out machine was mounted and said, "See these dice? They cost me more than \$ 300.00 last night."

"I'd like to spend a couple of weeks there," I said.

The Chicago Tribune classified ad said \$ 12.50 would take me to Miami as a passenger in an auto. Louis Sher, who also worked at the Chicago World's Fair, and I signed up. The driver had six people going to Miami, and with the help of a fellow passenger, Phil Clemmons, we decided to drive straight through in order to save hotel costs.

Somewhere in Florida our luggage, which filled the trunk of the car and some tied to the bumper, caught on fire. The exhaust pipe had gotten so hot it set flames to the suit cases. We got out of the car, scattered our burning bags over the sides of the road and salvaged what we could. Mine was the only one untouched.

We decided to stop overnight at a tourist home in Cocoa, Florida - the place now called Cape Canaveral. Two of the group took showers. When we were about to leave we picked up our bill - \$ 1.75 for all seven of us!

This we thought was exceptionally low even during the depression the country was in. Shaven, cleaned-up and rested, we entered Miami - the semi tropical land - and it was unbelievable to one visiting for the first time. We had left winter, wind and snow, and a couple of days later here it was sunshine and palm trees.

The winter of 1933 was the time when President Roosevelt was shot at by Joseph Zangara at the Bay Front Park in Miami. The president was spared and Anton J. Cermak, Mayor of Chicago was killed. The Mayor, dying, it was claimed said, "I'm glad it was me instead of him."

Bert Elmer set his roller machine up in Bay Front Park. Business was slow. This was not the Century of Progress with its huge crowds flowing through. I helped him a couple of days, and at times relieved him. It was during one of these days that I rolled a few buffalo nickels through the rollers and created a set. One was double rolled - just flat - the second I rolled

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BETWEEN THE 1933 AND 1934
CHICAGO CENTURY OF PROGRESS

by David J. Singer

(Continued)

a bit more than half way so one could see most of the scene, and the third came out with a complete view, just perfect. I created one more and made this into a bracelet. Of all the roll outs I've seen this one I would vote as the most beautiful. The Miami Beach scene is on page 25, # 3 of Dottie Dow's book.

One other elongate created by Elmer in the winter of 1933 is an unlisted showing a girl on the beach, palm tree with a boat in the water, listed in Bob Callander's directory part # 3 Florida # 4. Bert Elmer at a later date must have created N.J.ac # 9 as the two are almost identical except that the palm tree and the name of the city is different.

During the 1933 fair none of us dared to roll a coin on anything but a penny. We were told anything else was legal tender and it was breaking a federal law. We purchased some flat sheet silver and ran a few pieces through at the American Indian Village just for Bert Elmer and myself. Now here in Florida, I rolled some on nickles, why? I can't really answer that. Was it the semi-tropical climate, the Miami moon, or maybe the devil that made me do it, but I did roll them and they were just for myself.

Now you must remember that our country was in one of its most severe depressions. Banks had failed, the stock market was busted, there were bread lines and unemployment. Bert Elmer was here in Bay Front Park rolling out souvenirs, trying to scratch out a living, to make a piece of bread. There were no elongated collector organizations. In fact, the term elongate was not associated with roll-outs.

Just about 50 feet away from Elmer's roll-out machine a man was selling baby turtles, a souvenir packaged and sold for 25¢ and mailed anywhere. He offered me a job for \$ 4.00 a day, which was great. I had worked about a week and was doing a good job, when Mrs. Callaway, who took inventory daily, tallied the monies and wanted me to account for shortages of about \$ 1.50 on certain days. I quit. How could I tell her that her husband Mr. Callaway, took money from the till each afternoon and visited the local pub.

My next job was at the Deauville Beach Casino, Miami Beach. I helped Mr. Cohen, who was in charge of the bar. After a month of work, it was whispered that the management of this renowned resort could not meet the payroll. I should have stayed on, as I had food and dormitory logging, but instead I hung around a couple of days and did not work. The house detective made me move out.

About this time Bert Elmer slipped a roll out in my hand. I looked at it and had to laugh. It is now in unlisted directory part 3 by Bob Callander, Flamia # 5. The words on it read Dixie Bath House and Solariums, admit one, to sun parlor, Miami Beach, Florida. Elmer did a selling job on the owners where he was staying, and convinced them that these tokens could be reused, and why bother with a printed ticket that got soaked going through the shower

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BETWEEN THE 1933 AND 1934
CHICAGO CENTURY OF PROGRESS

by David J. Singer

(Continued)

Lous Sher my World's Fair friend and I learned we could live on two nickles a day if we had to. A can of Maine sardines cost six cents, a bisquit two cents, and a tomatoe two cents. However, most of the time our breakfast and dinner ran fifteen and twenty-five cents at the Dinner Bell. Oranges, we picked up free at deserted orange groves when we hitchhiked out of town.

We roomed at Mr. and Mrs. Zelley's in Miami. The rent was \$ 2.00 a week for each of us. When the season got into full swing in December, the rent shot up to \$ 2.50 a week. This was just too much, so we moved further out where we could still rent for \$ 2.00 a week.

In order to get into some business we went to the Seminole Indian Village where we purchased a dozen baby alligators. We got a large pan, filled it with some water, and hid them under our bed. A couple of days later, one had died and we pictured \$ 1.25 going out of the window. We didn't know how to feed them and got worried. After the housekeeper made our beds and straightened out our room, she noticed alligators crawling around threw the sheets down and ran out. The next day we sold the alligators to a pet shop for \$ 1.00 each taking a loss.

I ran into one of the most interesting characters of the '30's during this time. One Eye Connelly was the most famous gate crasher of all time. He had built up a reputation and caught the "eye" of the public. He would be noticed because of his one eye and kicked out - only to be back in before the guards returned to their posts. The reporters and sports writers started mentioning him in their column along with the big names who attended the World's Series, or the Jack Dempsey championship fight or the Kentucky Derby. "Attending the event was the Prince of Wales, President Coolidge, Eddie Cantor and One Eye Connelly".

It got to the point where in order to make an event famous they would send One Eye Connelly a ticket and some fare so he wouldn't have to ride the rails. Connelly had a chain around his neck and a nickel hung on it. I asked him where he got it. "John D. Rockefeller Sr. gave it to me," he said proudly. Rockefeller was the most hated and extremely unpopular for years because of his oil monopoly. A public relation man got "the richest man in America" to pass out dimes to everyone he came in contact with. "He gives out dimes to everyone and to you he gave a nickel?" I said. The look he gave me I'll never forget. I saw One Eye Connelly a couple of more times when I visited the Miami News offices. He would put the touch on the newsmen for a couple of buck.

Yes, these were Depression Years. We went for two weeks, stayed four months, saw several roll-outs created, and hitched home to get ready for the 1934 Century of Progress. The fifteen roll-outs that I brought back, 35 years later, I sold for an amount that paid for half of my trip.

- THE END -



ELONGATEDS AS TICKETS

by Jerry Rathburn

I have been experimenting using elongated coins as advance tickets for advanced ticket sales for our kiddie amusement rides. I thought that this would serve two purposes, first as a ticket for the rides, and second to promote interest in elongateds in this area.

I had a one day festival booked at Johnny Clem school (grades 1-6) Thursday May 23, 1974. We were taking our Giant Pillow air ride, Fun Tunnel air ride, Kiddie Ferris Wheel, Small Chair Swings, and two games. All of the rides were 35¢. About a week before the festival I left with the committee 500 rolled out elongated tickets to be sold at 35¢ each. I rolled these on uncoated pennies, just as they came from the bank. I also re-rolled a number of other old elongateds of mine with the new engraving on it. We (my ride boys and myself) were betting ourselves how many of the 500 tickets would be used as tickets, and how many would be kept as souvenirs by the kids or their parents.

We heard a lot of comments on how unusual they were, and were they really pennies, is it legal, etc. We thought if we got 75% of the tickets back for rides it would be a good average. Two days later, the committee called and said they had sold the 500 I left with them, and wanted another 500 tickets. I rolled another 500 tickets, and left them with them, making a total of 1,000 they had to sell. We agreed to sell regular roll tickets at the festival instead of elongateds for a couple of reasons, mainly because I didn't have enough elongated tickets rolled up to do the job. The festival ran for four hours, and after it was over, we began counting tickets. Much to our surprise we counted 993 elongated tickets turned in for rides. This meant only 7 elongated tickets had been kept, or lost by the kids. By and large tho, using the elongated tickets as advanced sale tickets worked real well.

We have used another of our elongated coins (Giant Pillow, admit one) for small school and church festivals as regular tickets, but this was the first time we used them as advanced sales. We mainly use them as give-aways to kids that help us set up and for the committees' kids. Both of these elongated tickets were hand engraved by me, and so far I have re-engraved the date for each new year. The first year for the Giant Pillow elongated was 1972, and 1974 for the C & J Amusements, Inc. ticket. Since our season is over now I have re-engraved both dies to 1975 for next year. I also made a few progressional sets for both dies so I could check on how the finished elongated dies would look.

In this quarters newsletter there is one of the C & J Amusements, Inc. (1974) ticket elongateds that was used as a ticket for a ride this year. Next year I am going to try another approach to try and get some interest in elongateds in this area.

We have our rides at a music park (Frontier Ranch) and operate them on weekends there. We (C & J Amusements, Inc.) have six kiddie rides and three adult rides. I (J.R. Enterprises) have games and jewelry (cut-out coin, elongated, etc.) and cotton candy that I book with the rides. I own a roller and have 9 different elongateds plus year varieties for the two ticket elongateds. We play school & Church festivals and private picnics in the Spring and Fall, and street and county fairs in the summer. We have been in the

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ELONGATEDS AS TICKETS

by Jerry Rathburn

(Continued)

amusement business the last 15 years. If you are ever in central Ohio close to one of our festivals, drop in and use the ticket enclosed for on of your kids to ride a ride, and say hello to us.



A.A. Rosato
44 Bank St.
New Milford, Ct.
10/23/74

Dear Burton,

...I am delighted to see so many respond to your request in getting MEC back into the limelight again and from the newsletter, I'm sure more will show a continued interest! Hopefully!

...I did not read all items in the newsletter but I did see the Xmas item by Paul Aubry. - I was a little disappointed my 12 or 14 were not listed - guess he overlooked or no room etc.

I made 7 new Xmas issues for 1974 and if you care to mention in the newsletter all 7 are for \$ 5.00 postpaid. Each issue is limited to 300 pcs. only. Each a beauty!! I did not make any others in 1974 except a Spirit of 1776 and also a very nice piece!! As a matter of fact its a FIRST!! That is, the "Reverse" is the first "Multi Colored"! Yes Red, White, & Blue. Color is applied before rolling to retain the Lincoln image and each coin's colors come off in different angles. I also made only 7 pieces showing a red-white-blue Flag and its a whole new ball game in colored reverses. The 7 flag pcs. are not for sale but the others are \$ 1.00 each (Spirit of 1776 w/color) or the regular issues with either red or blue, 2 for \$ 1.50! The red, white & blues only 100 made!!

All my other time has been devoted in putting the book together! I still have some time to finish it and hopefully by Spring or early Summer next, I may have an annoucement for a release date. No one can ever appreciate the time I've been putting into this volumous work and many have abandoned the thought that I'll ever complete it. All I can say is that I'm really working hard to complete it and I can't blame anyone for giving up on me! However, I feel the work is too important to have rushed it and since Lee's book was in the coming, it came as a blessing so's I would do a better job on mine!! The work has been arduous and the many delays vexations but I'm determined and hopefully it will be appreciated!!

My sincere best and continued good luck with MEC,

Angie

ELONGATED COIN COLLECTING CAN BE FUN

by Sally Kirka

I think I started collecting elongated coins about 25 years ago. I was given one elongated coin, which I looked over very carefully wondering if it really was once a penny, but was now rolled out. Like everyone seeing an elongated coin for the first time, I wondered just how this coin was made. At the amusement parks you paid your 11¢ and you received an elongated coin, but it didn't really tell me anything. I asked the man selling the elongated pennies, but either he himself didn't know, or else he wasn't that interested in telling me how they were made. Anyhow I was curious about these coins and every time I saw one at a Coin Show, or a flea market I'd buy one. Years ago dealers were glad to get rid of those so called junk as they then called them. I'd buy all I could get my hands on. Most of the time I paid around 5¢, or the most a quarter for the elongated penny. More than once a dealer gave me this so called junk just to get rid of them. I was always pleased and happy to get them all.

Now everyone is looking for the older elongated coins today, but remember over 20 years ago dealers were just happy someone like me would even think to give them 25¢ for the elongated coin. The funny part, now I laugh at how cheap I got some of those early coins, as these same coins sell for a high price today.

To enjoy a hobby is to have fun too and I sure had fun with mine. Little by little I started to exhibit at coin shows and my poor little elongated coins had to take a back seat as even the judges would look at my exhibit and say that's junk. More than once I felt like I'd come out fighting when a judge said that. Even today that is why many don't win at coin shows, because a judge won't look at elongated exhibits and follow the rules.

At one big coin show I was asked to exhibit those funny looking coins I collect. So I asked the Chairman, if my exhibit is accepted for an exhibit, don't the judges have to follow the ANA rules for my exhibit too? I was assured the judges would play fair with all exhibits.

Well for weeks I worked hard, thinking up ideas on how to exhibit, so my coins could stand out. Believe me it wasn't easy, but I worked hard, hoping the judges would just look at my exhibit. That's when I got the idea to paint my elongated coins. This changed my whole exhibit and I was ready to try again. I painted all the state flags I bought from Dottie Dow. It wasn't an easy job, but I did it.

Well, when I first brought my exhibit to the coin show and saw all the beautiful exhibits of coins and all that paper money, I was sure my exhibit would just be pushed aside and called junk. I didn't really mind if I lost, but hated to have my collection of elongated coins called junk.

When it came time to call out the winners I turned to my husband Al and said, let's go eat, you just know I don't stand a chance. As I was walking away all hope faded away as they called out 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize winners in each category. Just as I gave up all hopes, the Chairman yelled out in a loud voice and the winner of the "Best of Show" is Sally Kirka on her elongated coins. I must have been the proudest person there. I was also happy they did not say I won on junk, but on my Elongated Coin Exhibit.

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ELONGATED COIN COLLECTING CAN BE FUN

by Sally Kirka

(Continued)

Since then and up to date, I have won over 150 awards, such as silver bowls, all kinds of trophies, many different plaques, medals and all kinds of ribbons. So to those that call elongated coins junk, eat your heart out, as I look at all my awards. So collecting elongated coins can really be fun.

NEW MEMBERS

92. Oscar G. Ratnoff
93. Teresa Osborne

94. Ruby Threlkeld
95. Doug Sullivan

RAMBLING: "IT WAS A GOOD YEAR"

by Jack Wilcox

Merry Christmas one and all! Sincere thanks Burt, for a job well done, it is appreciated by the "Good Guys"; don't let the few mud slingers get you down!

Thanks to Mr. Sheldon Green for his attractive personal elongated donated to MEC members. Your design is very good.

Our flea market trips paid off and we uncovered several nice additions to our various collecting areas. Of special interest is a plain (no design) rolled 1908 Indian with a rolled border. I believe it to be a "Test Roll" seeing it only cost a quarter. Has anyone else seen any of the plain rolls besides the "trolley track" type?

Delighted to receive our long awaited third Christmas elongated (designed by Peg this time) from Cee Ceven - Well pleased with the results - Any Christmas collectors interested in obtaining one - send a S.A.E. and fifty cents.

I outwaited a coin dealer on a N.Y.b1 #2 (Statue of Liberty) which he priced at \$ 3.00 at last year's coin show. This year he sold it for \$ 1.00 my original offer!

Let's all help Burt in the coming year! Make MEC stay alive in 1975. Forget about "shaking a fist" - instead join in and lend a hand!!

I've seen just about every type coin encased, including a gold piece and silver dollar, but no one has managed to encase an elongated that I know of. Here is an interesting endeavor for a bold one!

It was a good year and may I extend my wishes to all for a happy 1975.

Dear Members,

Many thanks to the following members who helped bring the Quarter to a nice close: Paul Aubry Jerry Rathburn
Sally Kirka David Singer
A.A. Rosato Jack Wilcox

If each member only wrote one article per year we'd have a SUPER --- NEWSLETTER with opinions, ideas, thoughts, suggestions from all parts of the country. Wouldn't that be nice!

So who's running for office in 1975? So far the following members expressed their desire to run:

President.....Burton Neal Levy
Vice President.....Paul Aubry
Sec/Treasurer.....James E. Hicks
Board of Directors
1.Sally Kirka
2.Charles Mueller
3.David Singer

I would like to see a few more members step forward and run for office. If one wishes to do so please state as such prior to January 15, 1975. This is one election which the individual who wrote last year Cut And Dried will have to find another expression to use!

Several out of state members have tried to telephone me without success. Well the reason is my number is not listed in the directory. So get your pencil and paper ready - 312-338-9363. Coming to town? Give me a call and I can arrange a special meeting with the local members.

Please send all club correspondence to my address: P.O. Box 59428
Chicago, IL. 60645
unless stated otherwise.

Best Holiday Wishes To All...Have a nice day.

Burt

